

CLAIMS

1. A method for continuously drawing and mixing liquid samples originating from at least  $n$  ( $n \geq 2$ ) different containers, characterised in that it comprises successively  
5 the steps consisting of:

- drawing a given volume of  $n$  samples originating from  $n$  different containers of liquids, each of the samples drawn being placed in a sampling chamber (2);

10 - transferring identical volumes of each sample drawn at the preceding step into a common mixing container (3) in order to obtain a mixture sample to be analysed.

2. A method for continuously drawing and mixing liquid samples according to Claim 1, characterised in that the  
15 drawing step consists of drawing a volume of liquid from each container comprising between 0.5 and 20 millilitres.

3. A method for continuously drawing and mixing liquid samples according to Claim 1, characterised in that the drawing step consists of drawing a volume of liquid from  
20 each container comprising between 2 and 8 millilitres.

4. A method for continuously drawing and mixing liquid samples according to any one of Claims 1 to 3, characterised in that the step of transferring to the mixing container (3) consists of transferring a volume of each drawn sample  
25 comprising between 0.5 and 20 millilitres.

5. A method for continuously drawing and mixing liquid samples according to any one of Claims 1 to 3, characterised in that the step of transferring to the mixing container (3)

consists of transferring a volume of each drawn sample comprising between 2 and 8 millilitres.

5 6. A method for continuously drawing and mixing liquid samples according to any one of the preceding claims, characterised in that the step of transferring the drawn samples into the mixing container (3) is initiated by an external action.

10 7. A method for continuously drawing and mixing liquid samples according to any one of the preceding claims, characterised in that the step of transferring the drawn samples into the mixing container (3) is initiated automatically.

15 8. A method for continuously drawing and mixing liquid samples according to any one of the preceding claims, characterised in that the drawing of the liquid samples of the first step is performed in a sterile manner.

9. A continuous method for the analysis of liquids, characterised in that it comprises successively the steps consisting of:

20 - drawing a given volume of  $n$  samples originating from  $n$  ( $n \geq 2$ ) different containers of liquids, each of the samples drawn being placed in a sampling chamber (2);

25 - transferring identical volumes of each sample drawn at the preceding step into a common mixing container (3) in order to obtain a mixture sample to be analysed;

- transferring a given volume of the mixture sample to be analysed from the preceding step to an analysis device.

10. A continuous method for the analysis of liquids according to Claim 9, characterised in that the step of

transferring to the analysis device consists of transferring a minimum volume of 1 millilitre of the mixture sample.

11. A continuous method for the analysis of liquids according to Claim 9 or Claim 10, characterised in that the transfer at least in part of the mixture sample to the analysis device is performed aseptically.

12. A device (1) for drawing and mixing samples of liquids originating from at least two different containers, said device comprising a mixing chamber (3) connected to each of said containers, characterised in that said device (1) comprises, between the container and the mixing chamber, at least one intermediate sampling chamber (2) for each container, connected so as to transfer to said mixing chamber (3) all or part of the sampled liquid, and in that said device (1) is configured in a vertical arrangement.

13. A device (1) for drawing and mixing liquid samples according to Claim 12, characterised in that said mixing chamber (3) is disposed under said sampling chambers (2).

14. A device (1) for drawing and mixing liquid samples according to Claim 12 or 13, characterised in that the mixing chamber (3) is associated in a removable manner with the sampling chambers (2).

15. A device (1) for drawing and mixing liquid samples according to any one of Claims 12 to 14, characterised in that the connection between the containers and the sampling chambers (2) consists of a piece of tubing (4), a tap, a stopper that can be pierced by a needle or a screw-fitting sealed by a stopper.

16. A device (1) for drawing and mixing liquid samples according to any one of Claims 12 to 15, characterised in that the connection between the sampling chambers (2) and

the mixing chamber (3) consists of a tube, a breakable fitting (5), a tap or a tubing clip.

17. A device (1) for drawing and mixing liquid samples according to any one of Claims 12 to 16, characterised in that the mixing chamber (3) is sealed by means of a screwed stopper, a stopper that can be pierced by a needle, a tap or a piece of tubing.

18. A device (1) for drawing and mixing liquid samples according to any one of Claims 12 to 17, characterised in that said device (1) comprises at least one non-return valve.

19. A device (1) for drawing and mixing liquid samples according to any one of Claims 12 to 18, characterised in that the drawing and mixing device (1) is a sterile device.

20. A device (1) for drawing and mixing liquid samples according to any one of Claims 12 to 19, characterised in that the drawing and mixing device (1) is a device that can be sterilised, preferably by  $\beta$  or  $\gamma$  irradiation.

21. A device (1) for drawing and mixing liquid samples according to any one of Claims 12 to 20, characterised in that it comprises connection means (6) for connecting said drawing and mixing device (1) to an analysis device.

22. A device (1) for drawing and mixing liquid samples according to the preceding claim, characterised in that the connection between the drawing and mixing device and the analysis device is an aseptic connection.

23. A device (1) for drawing and mixing liquid samples according to any one of Claims 12 to 22, characterised in that the sampling chambers (2) and/or the mixing chamber consist(s) of a flexible plastic material, of the PVC type.